

OXFORD, N.Y. – Today, U.S Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) toured the New York State Veterans' Home in Oxford to meet with local veterans and personnel and hear first-hand about local veterans' issues.

"Today, I saw first-hand what local agencies are doing to take care of veterans right here in Upstate New York," Arcuri said. "Recently, I had the opportunity to visit with wounded soldiers and young constituents recovering at Walter Reed Hospital. While addressing national problems, we must not forget the care and services for veterans that are available throughout Upstate New York and in Washington I will ensure that local agencies have the resources they need to care for our veterans."

In the last few weeks Arcuri voted for, and the House passed:

- A budget resolution which would provide \$32 billion over the next five years for veterans' health care, the largest veterans' budget increase in American history - ensuring that the 1,171,898 veterans in New York receive the care they need and deserve.
- The bipartisan Wounded Warrior Assistance Act (H.R. 1538), which would improve access to quality medical care for wounded service members who are outpatients at military health care facilities- taking necessary and concrete steps to end bureaucratic red-tape backlogs, begin the process of restoring efficiency to the disability evaluation system, and improve the transition of wounded service members from the Armed Forces to the Veterans' Administration (VA).
- The U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health and Iraq Accountability Act, which would provide \$2.8 billion for Defense Health Care and \$1.7 Billion for veteran's health care - including millions to address the maintenance backlog at VA health care facilities like Walter Reed.

"The brave men and woman who have served our country deserve the care and respect owed to them," Arcuri said. "During World War II, for every soldier killed, two were injured. Now, the ratio is up to sixteen-to-one and our veterans' care should respond to these changing needs. In Washington, we have taken concrete steps to provide for veterans in this country. Defending our country is one of government's biggest responsibilities – I'm proud we have seen to it that

the men and women who return from the frontlines of combat are cared for.”

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